

Dear Colleagues:

Earlier today, the University of California signed a one-year contract extension to continue managing the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

I have long been proud of the work of the nation's first national laboratory. Signing today's extension allows UC to continue its strong tradition of managing one of the University's -- and the country's -- scientific jewels.

The work you are doing at Berkeley Lab is tremendously important to UC, the broader scientific community, California, and our nation. You are on the leading edge of solving some of the most important scientific and engineering challenges that we face. In addition, the research and educational mission of Berkeley Lab has led to strong partnerships with the UC campuses and many other educational institutions, expanding the circle of those who benefit directly from the excellence of this laboratory's programs.

This contract extension allows the University to continue managing the laboratory through January 31, 2005 while the Department of Energy plans for and conducts a competition. The final decision regarding whether UC will enter into the competition is expected to be made by the UC Board of Regents after DOE releases its request for proposals. I know the Regents are very mindful of the close, unique ties of Berkeley Lab to the Berkeley campus and a growing number of other UC campuses. The Regents will make their decision with a clear understanding of that historic relationship. The University continues to prepare as if we will compete, and if the Regents indeed authorize our participation in the competition, I assure you that we will do so aggressively.

As we move toward decisions by both the Regents and the Department of Energy, I ask that you continue to remain focused on your work and the mission at the laboratory. I know that many of you will have questions and concerns about the competition process. As I mentioned in one of my earlier communications to you, I have set up an e-mail account through which you can submit questions to me. While I cannot respond personally to every e-mail, I promise that I will read each one submitted and will respond, in future communications, to the broad concerns and suggestions being expressed. To submit an email to me, visit Dynes' Desk at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/president/desk.html.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Dynes
President, University of California